

1 MISS. ESCAPEE SLAIN, 2 CAUGHT

Arms Cache Found in Fugitives' Hideout

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Two of three heavily armed escapees who fled the Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman were captured near here Friday night, and the third was shot to death while firing on officers and brandishing a hand grenade.

Louis Shadoan, 46, of Indianapolis, Ind., died instantly of multiple gunshot wounds when federal, state and local officers returned his fire when he, Thomas Albert Tarrants and ~~Malcolm Houston~~ were approached at their encampment in a wooded Rankin County area only two miles from the Jackson Municipal Airport.

Tarrants, a 22-year-old Mobile, Ala., self-styled guerrilla fighter, and Houston, 29, of Flint, Mich., were unharmed and were returned to the Mississippi State Penitentiary from which they fled late Wednesday armed with butcher knives, officers said.

Roy K. Moore, special agent in charge of the FBI in Mississippi, State Highway Patrol Chief J. D. Gardner and Rankin County Sheriff J. R. Edwards announced the arrests in a joint statement Friday night.

MOORE ACCOUNT

Moore gave this account of the encounter:

"Late this afternoon as a result of information developed through friends and relatives of the escapees, officers conducted a raid on a farm in Rankin County east of the Jackson airport. As a result of the raid, Louis Shadoan was slain and Thomas Albert Tarrants and Malcolm Houston were arrested.

"Shadoan was slain only after he fired on officers. No officer

was hurt."

Moore said the men were found in a rural area off a gravel road leading to a barn in a pup tent erected at a downed or felled tree. Shadoan was standing guard and opened fire when officers approached, he said. The other two were apparently sleeping inside the tent and, after an exchange of gunfire, yelled at officers, "Don't shoot any more, we're coming out."

Moore said the officers felt the three had assistance in their escape, but he would not say whether that assistance came before or after their break from the prison hospital at Parchman.

"Indications are they received assistance of some sort. We are of the opinion some of this assistance was supplied by persons presently or previously connected with Klan activities," he said.

Moore added Tarrants had been identified previously as a member of the Ku Klux Klan.

HUGE ARSENAL

The officers displayed a huge arsenal of weapons and supplies found in the tent. The cache included two pistols, an M-1 carbine, an AR-15 high-powered military rifle, several hundred rounds of ammunition, five loaded rifle clips and five hand grenades. Also found were several dozen cans of military rations, flashlights, sterno heating materials and several toiletry items.

"We feel this arsenal was supplied by the same ones who rendered the assistance (to the escapees)," Moore said.

Tarrants was serving a 30-year term for the attempted bombing of the home of Meridian Jewish leader Meyer Davidson. Shadoan was serving a sentence from Neshoba County for child molesting, while Houston was serving a term for bank robbery from Warren County.